



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An electronic newsletter in support of public safety services in Montana

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IM Weekly Highlights

- The U.S. Air Force's media event at the Highwood Baldy received great coverage. To view videos and articles, click on these links:
 - ▶ *Montana News Station* - [MT National Guard Goes Sky-High to Help Communications](#)
 - ▶ *KFBB-TV (ABC Affiliate)* - [Bringing Montana's Communication System into the 21st Century](#)
 - ▶ *Great Falls Tribune*- [New Hardware Upgrades Communications for Military, Law Enforcement, August 22, 2009](#)
- Bill Fleiner has left his position in the Investigation Bureau at the Dept. of Corrections to assume more responsibilities as the DES Coordinator for Broadwater County. Here is his new contact information: **406-266-9250 (business)**
406-980-2053 (cell)
broadwaterdes@co.broadwater.mt.us
- Outreach meetings took place in Hardin, Billings, Roundup and Crow Agency this week. The IM received lots of good comments and suggestions. Community leaders and radio users are welcome to attend any meeting that best fits their schedule. See the **Upcoming Meetings** section of this newsletter for next week's outreach schedule or visit: http://interop.mt.gov/im_outreach_meetings.mcp
- Motorola and Harris-Stratex continue to make progress on the Northern Tier.
- Purchase orders were sent out for infrastructure on the Greeno and Dunn Mtn. sites.
- The Eastern Tier has received 11 bids for the Belle Prairie tower, which are being evaluated by county and IM personnel, with the contract to be awarded shortly.

I-15/90 Consortium Members Updated

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

IM Project Director Dave McPherson began the Aug. 20 meeting of the I-15/90 Corridor Consortium with a discussion of the four outreach meetings that recently took place within the consortium in Beaverhead, Butte Silver-Bow, and Anaconda Deer-Lodge counties.

Bob McWilliams, IM Technical Committee Chair, provided an in-depth update on construction of the PSIC-funded Southwest Loop. Work will begin on the Ellis site first, followed by Antelope, Sawtell, VC Hill, and Sierra. The first building is due to be shipped on Oct. 5, but its installation will depend on mountain snow conditions. Whatever work is not accomplished due to the weather this fall will be completed in the spring.

Purchase orders have been let for the Limestone site over by Townsend as well as the Bull Mountain tower. The Lost Creek tower purchase order also has been released. Local contractors have looked at the building and are bidding on upgrades as well as building upgrades that are needed at the XL Heights site. The Cominco site is up and working with wide-area trunking now.

Butte-Silver Bow's FCC frequency license applications are still pending. The last FCC e-mail indicated that a new hire will have to look over the applications, and that person is currently on vacation, so the county was notified that it will have to wait another two weeks. Attorneys have been hired, but they haven't obtained results yet either.

Members also discussed recent contract issues and construction projects with cellular companies on Rumsey Mountain. Everything has been surveyed for a new tower and shelter.

Dave McPherson reported on the last IM Project Directors meeting and said that fleet mapping training will take place within the consortium after the first of the year. Members discussed radio and repeater installations, which appear to be behind schedule.

The next I-15/90 consortium meeting is scheduled at 10:00 am on Thurs., Sept. 17 at the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George Street, in Butte.

IM Technical Committee Has Active Discussion

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

IM Technical Committee members heard standing committee reports at their Monday, Aug. 24, meeting, after which discussion centered on criteria for using of combiners to reduce interference problems. Participants reviewed the best practice policy on Radio Frequency (RF) interference issues that the IMTC adopted in Dec. 2007 and reiterated that plans for combiners be made up front rather than after the fact. The goal should be to eliminate interference issues as much as possible prior to the site going on line. Entities contributing to an RF problem should perhaps contribute a portion of the cost of a combiner. The facility manager has the responsibility of making the initial decision on the need for a combiner, and the IM also will analyze known frequencies at a site.

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A combiner is being planned for the Greycliff site. Kerry O'Connell, Sweet Grass County, also reported that Northwest Towers was awarded the contract for the Greycliff site.

Mark Canton, Motorola, brought the group up to date on plans for the Second Master Controller. Phase I will begin soon.

Members also discussed the use of Zone C as a standardized trunking group. This procedure is valuable, especially during high-stress incidents. Verbiage will be written so the IMTC can adopt it as a best practice at its next meeting.

The IMTC also addressed the issue of maintenance costs at sites. Kevin Bruski named Garrett Fawaz, Dept. of Corrections, and Jason Norman, Dept. of Transportation, to an ad hoc committee to research and identify an accurate cost projection for maintaining a communications site. They will consult with Roger Smith, IM; Roger Hays, Lewis and Clark County; and Jack Spillman, Flathead County; as needed.

The committee reviewed and modified an initial draft of a new fencing best practice which will be voted on at the next IMTC meeting. They also provided guidance to Ian Marquand, IM Public Affairs and Outreach Consultant, on a report he will be preparing to describe progress made on the IM Project and how it benefits Montanans.

The next IMTC meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 28, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, at the MACo offices, 2715 Skyway Drive, in Helena.

Free Public Safety Web Training on LEAPS TV

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

LEAPS stands for Law Enforcement And Public Safety, and refers to an online web training program to assist law enforcement and public safety workers.

The following free web program reruns are available for the next few weeks on LEAPS TV. They may be viewed on-demand, 24x7 at no charge (no phone line required).

- Security on Campus
- Emergency Mass Notification Technologies: Big Picture
- Avoiding the Pitfalls of 911 Quality Assurance

Reruns are scheduled to run for four weeks after the original live broadcast. However, the LEAPS folks can grant special access to extend certain programs due to popular demand or to meet a particular community need.

For complete information and registration, please see: <http://leaps.tv/LEAPSTVguide.php>.

Ryan Olson Departs PSSB

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

We fondly say "au revoir" to Ryan Olson, who is leaving the Public Safety Services Bureau to start his own consulting business, Third Signal (<http://www.ThirdSignal.com>).

The posting for his replacement position has just closed, and the hiring process is in its very early stages. We'll keep you posted on the outcome.

Upcoming Meetings

IM Outreach Meetings http://interop.mt.gov/im_outreach_meetings.mcp

Aug. 31 –Circle • 9:30 am

Schmidt's SuperValu, Banquet Room
105 10th St.

Aug. 31 –Glendive • 2:00 pm

Dawson County Courthouse, Commissioner's Meeting Room, 207 West Bell Street

Aug. 31 –Glendive • 7:00 pm

West Glendive Fire Dept.
Corner of N. Merrill Ave. and W. Brennan St.

Sept. 1 – Baker • 10:00 am

Fallon County Courthouse Library (Basement)
10 West Fallon Ave.

Sept. 1 – Miles City • 3:00 pm

Montana Bar's "Montana Room", 614 Main St.

Sept. 1 – Miles City • 7:00 pm

Montana Bar's "Montana Room", 614 Main St.

Sept. 2 - Lame Deer • 10:00 am

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Chamber
600 Cheyenne Ave.

Sept. 2

Tri-County Consortium
Helena • 10:00 am
Dept. of Corrections Annex Bldg., Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

Sept. 3

Northern Tier
Havre • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Great Northern Inn, 1345 1st St.

Sept. 8 (Tues. - Please Note Change of Date/Day)

IM Finance Committee
Helena • 9:00 am - Noon
Anderson ZurMuehlen, 828 Great Northern Blvd.

Sept. 8 (Tues. - Please Note Change of Date/Day)

IM Governance Committee
Helena • 1:00 - 5:00 pm
Anderson ZurMuehlen, 828 Great Northern Blvd.

Sept. 9 (Wed. - Please Note Change of Date/Day)

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
MACo Large Conference Rm., Lower Level, 2715 Skyway Drive

Sept. 16

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)
Great Falls • 10:00 am • Location to be Announced

Sept. 16

South Central Montana Consortium (SCMICC)
Bozeman • 10:00 am
Fire Station 3; Corner of Carol & Davis, off of Oak St.